GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:261
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
INDIAN CHANNELS IN PAKISTAN
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to improve people to people contact between India and Pakistan, Islamabad has been urged to allow viewing of Indian channels in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this will give a major boost to the people of both the countries;

(c) whether India has felt that this step from Pakistan Government would act as a Confidence Building Measure and certainly help in bettering relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the extent to which both India and Pakistan have agreed to allow the Indian channels to be operated in Pakistan ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 261, REGARDING INDIAN CHANNELS IN PAKISTAN

(a) to (d) The Government believe that freer exchange of media persons and media products would contribute to the creation of better climate in India−Pakistan relations. This would be among the issues for discussion on the agenda item ` Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various Fields` of the Composite dialogue with Pakistan. Besides, Doordarshan through its News and other programmes including coverage of sporting events, telecasts programmes which act as confidence building measures and are helpful in bettering relations between the two countries. However, the ban imposed by Pakistan on Indian television channels in December, 2001, is continuing.